

NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUE

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday, June 1, 1943, at the Quaker City Elks Lodge,
1943 Christian St., Phila., Pa.

Thomas T. Wilson, Presiding; Ed. Gottlieb, acting Secretary.

All clubs represented as follows: Homestead-S.H. Posey; Phila.-Ed. Bolden; Newark Eagles-Mr. and Mrs. Manley; Baltimore-Vernon Green; New York Black Yankees-James Semler; New York Cuban Stars-Aleck Pompez and St. Louis-Harrisburg Stars-George Mitchell.

Tom Wilson opened the meeting and told members that the purpose of getting together was to discuss the player situation and working agreement with the Negro American League. He said tampering with players was bad, and would result in tearing down what it took years to build up. He also said that it was necessary under existing conditions for everybody to do some sacrificing to help keep baseball going and avoid fights between the two Leagues. He stated his position definitely against tampering and fully in accord with the working agreement, and asked for a vote of confidence to back him up in this stand.

S. H. Posey, George Mitchell, Mrs. Manley, Aleck Pompez, spoke on the player situation.

Posey stated that the Negro American League violated the agreement in the past, and was allowed to get away with it. Also that "Cool Papa" Bell was the property of the Negro National League.

George Mitchell said that he did not go after any players until the Cleveland Buckeyes had tampered with Theolic Smith, property of the St. Louis Stars.

Mrs. Manley suggested that the same procedure^{be} followed now as in the past, by allowing all men to stay with the clubs they were now with. She also spoke about the need of a Commissioner to rule on such matters.

Pompez, James Semler, and Ed. Bolden also spoke on the matter.

The members were of the opinion that the working agreement should be kept enforced.

Wendell Smith, Sports Editor of the Pittsburgh Courier, was asked to express his opinion, and spoke in favor of the working agreement.

Meeting was adjourned, so that both Leagues could get together for their Joint Meeting.

Meeting resumed after Joint Meeting.

Motion by Semler, seconded by Bolden, to raise umpire Fred McCrary's salary to \$200 per month, since he's the only umpire under salary with the League.

James Semler raised the question of some of his men playing with St. Louis. President Wilson ruled that Parker belongs to St. Louis; Harry Williams and Bill Starks to the Black Yanks. Also that Jim Ford belongs to St. Louis.

Motion by Semler, seconded by Green, that the N.N.L. divide the 1943 season into two halves, with the winner of the first half playing a series of games with the winner of the second half to decide the 1943 champion. Motion carried 5 to 2, with Newark and Homestead voting against it.

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NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUE

(2)

Ed. Gottlieb read letter from Lem Graves, Jr. of the Norfolk Journal and Guide showing that some scores had not been reported correctly, and clubs were advised to be very careful of this duty in the future.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed. Gottlieb, Acting Secretary